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POLAND: Leadership Changes

Premier Jaruzelski, in a major shakeup yesterday in the leadership at the party Central Committee plenum, further consolidated his position.

Stefan Olszowski, a hardliner who hoped to replace Jaruzelski as party leader, lost his seat on the powerful party secretariat. Jaruzelski balanced this step by removing a prominent liberal intellectual, Heronim Kubiak, from the secretariat. Both men remain on the Politburo.

Jaruzelski also moved his economic adviser and the editor in chief of Poland's most prestigious economic weekly onto the secretariat. In addition, the Central Committee elected Marian Wozniak, another technocrat and supporter of Jaruzelski, to the Politburo.

Comment: These changes are part of Jaruzelski's continuing efforts to remove conservative and liberal extremists from senior leadership positions. Olszowski's demotion and the recent move of the hardline Warsaw Province party boss to be Ambassador to Moscow represent a substantial loss of power by hardliners.

The tension between Jaruzelski and Olszowski probably came to a head during debates over easing martial law. Although Jaruzelski evidently supports only minor gestures, he probably had to dump Olszowski in order to break a stalemate in the leadership. Jaruzelski is likely to reveal his plans regarding martial law next Wednesday in a speech to the parliament.

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17 July 1982

Approved for Release
Date AUG 1999

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